



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO ROBBERING SPRINGFIELD BANK

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an area man pleaded guilty in federal court today to robbing a Springfield, Mo., bank.

Richard Curtis Fulton, 32, no permanent address, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England this morning.

By pleading guilty, **Fulton** admitted that he robbed the Bank of America branch at 2633 W. College Road in Springfield on May 9, 2003.

On the day of the robbery, **Fulton** entered the bank at approximately 2 p.m., wearing a cap with a bill and sunglasses. After entering the bank, **Fulton** stood in line behind a bank customer and waited until a bank employee was available before approaching the counter. At that time, **Fulton** showed the teller a note that demanded cash. **Fulton** had placed a plastic bag on the counter in which the teller placed in excess of \$2,850. **Fulton** was photographed by the bank's surveillance cameras during the robbery.

Fulton was apprehended by law enforcement after he voluntarily appeared at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Springfield office on June 27, 2003.

Fulton was originally charged in a federal criminal complaint that was filed on June 30, 2003. The criminal complaint was later replaced by an indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on July 9, 2003, in Springfield.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Douglas C. Bunch. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow